

Received
12.11.99
EW Center

Testimony of Lono Correa
Federal Hearings on Reconciliation
December 11, 1999
East-West Center, University of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Aloha to you, Assistant Secretary John Berry, and to you, Deputy Director Mark Van Norman.

Thank you for being here today and for appearing at all of the other hearings that you have held here in this, our Hawai'i. I, as a kanaka ma'oli, thank you for coming to us to hear our views as to how the unconscionable damage done to the kanaka ma'oli nation just over 100 years ago may be addressed and repaired by the government of the United States, the key player in the actions that deprived our nation of its independence and deprived our ancestors of their natural right of self-determination. As the facts of the case are thoroughly understood and the culpabilities of the participants completely proved, there is no point in rehashing the sad and tragic history. You are here today to hear from us what we think are appropriate remedies for the injuries that we have suffered as a result of those actions. And to determine appropriate remedies it will be necessary for you to acknowledge the severity and extent of the injuries suffered.

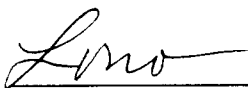
To my way of thinking, no amount of money or land or political accommodation and compensation will ever repair the damage done to kanaka ma'oli between 1893 and 1898, and in the subsequent 100+ years of American dominion. The injury has been so great, the lives wasted so vast, the damage to our homeland and culture so serious, nothing you are capable of doing at this time will make us, the indigenous and lawful people of these small islands, whole again. Nothing can undo the loss of dignity and pride, the sense of order and belonging, and the sense of wholeness which was ripped from the hearts of our ancestors by the foreigners who came to our beautiful land and imposed their will on us through the crass mechanism of raw military might. At the least, three generations of kanaka ma'oli were humiliated, shoved aside, wasted and reduced. Because of this destruction of talent and productivity, we stand today at the bottom of the totem pole, the poorest, the sickest, the most ill-educated, and the most incarcerated of the peoples who now call Hawai'i ne'i their home. Without a doubt, the loss of our health, wealth and dignity, and of our sense of self-worth, has been, almost completely, the result of the taking away of our independence and nationhood, and by the concomitant and duplicitous importation and settlement of foreigners onto our homeland.

Because of the catastrophic nature of the injury, because of the pervasive and continuing deprivation of our inherent natural rights, the remedy enacted must be on a comparable scale. Therefore, it is my opinion that as a first and immediate step the government of the United States must take the following actions:

- 1) After a complete and thorough inventory, it shall return to kanaka ma'oli control all the lands and waters that were taken from the legally constituted government and monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i by all of the illegal succeeding governmental authorities.
- 2) With regard to past and present Federal and State use of kanaka ma'oli lands: a fair and complete assessment of rents and accrued interest owed to the kanaka ma'oli nation shall be determined and must be paid.
- 3) Kanaka ma'oli shall be allowed to express their inherent and natural right of self-determination without undue influence on the part of Federal and/or State authorities.
- 4) The self-determined entity created by kanaka ma'oli shall be recognized as the legal authority responsible for representing and protecting kanaka ma'oli interests and assets.
- 5) Kanaka ma'oli shall be included as a majority on all Federal and State boards, commissions, agencies and/or any other governmental authorities which purport to exercise control or influence on the land, the air and the seas of Hawai'i.
- 6) Kanaka ma'oli shall be allowed to create national agencies and organizations to serve kanaka ma'oli determined needs.
- 7) A permanent bi-lateral entity shall be created to continue the reconciliation process.

The remedies cited above are sufficient to begin a true reconciliation between kanaka ma'oli and the government and people of the United States. They are of such significance that they will have an immediate and permanent beneficial effect on the entire kanaka ma'oli nation. They begin to address in a serious way the catastrophic injuries which we have sustained at the hands of the United States and its agents. If the United States enacts such remedies a new era of understanding and mutual respect will begin, an era which may well lead to an affirmation of the connection that binds us together in our shared existence on this planet 'Earth', this planet 'Ao'.

Mahalo,



Lono Correa

Historian: Na Iwi Ola o He'e'ia Kea